

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /114 W

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P R 080936Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 113

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0863

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, MI

SUBJECT: MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA AND MALAWI

REF: LUSAKA 814 AND BLANTYRE 594

1. PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT MARK CHONA TOLD AMBASSADOR MAY 7 THIS MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT'S KAUNDA AND BANDA RESULTED IN GOOD UNDERSTANDING ON NEED FOR THOSE THREE COUNTRIES ABUTTING ON NORTHERN BORDER OF MOZAMBIQUE -- ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND MALAWI -- TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT NEW PHASE OF INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE IN THAT PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORY PROCEEDS IN ATMOSPHERE OF MODERATION AND STABILITY AND EMBRACES ALL SECTORS OF POPULATION.

2. CHONA REMINDED THAT ZAMBIA WANTED TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF CHAOTIC CONDITION WHICH OCCURRED IN CONGO FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN WHICH ARMED MILITANTS CAUSE OF ADDITIONAL BLOODSHED AND REMAINED CRIMINAL ELEMENT WITHIN COUNTRY AND THREAT TO NEIGHBORS. CHONA ALSO INDICATED
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THAT FUTURE OF WHITES IN ANY NON-RACIAL, FREE MOZAMBIQUE ALSO

MATTER OF CONCERN TO GRZ AND THAT UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN MALAWI THAT COUNTRIES ABUTTING ON MOZAMBIQUE WOULD WORK TO IMPRESS UPON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS NEED TO WIN CONFIDENCE OF WHITE POPULATION THERE AND WORK JOINTLY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.

3. AMBASSADOR ASKED CHONA IF ZAMBIA FELT IT COULD COUNT UPON MALAWI TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO REFRAIN FROM INTERVENTION, A ROLE HE HAD SUGGESTED USG CONSIDER (LUSAKA 827). CHONA HESITATED SOMEWHAT; THEN SAID THAT SINCE MALAWI'S RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL HAD BECOME ONE SLIGHT DEGREE COOLER, ITS RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA HAD FOLLOWED SUIV AND IT WAS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT MALAWI WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THIS DIPLOMATIC TASK.

4. PRESS REPORTS FROM BLANTYRE CARRIED IN ZAMBIAN LOCAL PRESS MAY 8 STATE KAUNDA-BANDA MEETING "HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MILITARY COUP IN PORTUGAL," AS VISIT PLANNED FOR LAST SEPTEMBER AND POSTPONED. MEETING REPORTED TO COVER TRADE AND ZAMBIA'S USE OF MALAWI RAILWAY.

5. ZAMBIA'S DAILY MAIL STATED "HISTORY " KAUNDA-BANDA MEETING (FIRST SINCE 1963 AND SINCE ZAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE) OPENED NEW CHAPOER IN RELATIONS OF TW COUNTRIES WHICH AGREED MAINTAIN CONTACTS AT CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CABINET LEVELS.

6. DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL STRESSED COMMON HERITAGE AND DESTINY OF ZAMBIA AND MALAWI AND BELIEF CLOSER RELATIONS ONLY REASONABLE AND NATURAL. SAID DIFFERENCES OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA SHOULD NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO NEIGHBORLINESS AND HOPED PRESIDENT BANDA WOULD CONSIDER VISITING ZAMBIA. PRAISED KAMUZU AS CHARISMATIC, REPSECTED SON OF AFRICA WHO "PLAYED VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN SMASHING FEDERATION" WHICH PREPARED WAY FOR MAJORITY RULE IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

7. COMMENT: WE ASSUME BANDA'S DENIALS OF ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN MEETING AND PORTUGUESE COUP DESIGNED TO PROTECT HIS RELATIONS WITH GOP, BUT WE DEFER TO EMBASSY BLANTYRE FOR FULL AND AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION ON THIS POINT.
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